April 20, 2015

Dear colleagues,

This is one of my favorite times of the year. Warmer temperatures have returned, and the campus looks beautiful with the blossoming of its many trees and flowers. Most importantly, it is a time of recognition and celebration of the achievements of many individuals across our campus. While it is impossible to relay all of the events of this month, I would like to highlight a few.

The Faculty Recognition Banquet last Wednesday once again provided an entertaining and thought-provoking evening from Keri Yousif’s toast featuring French poet Charles Baudelaire’s encouragement to embrace life to the fullest (using slightly different words) to Bob Guell’s humble tribute to heroes throughout the university. It was a great evening.

I was honored to present the President’s Medal to Mark Hamm, professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Mary Howard-Hamilton, professor of Educational Leadership, in recognition of their distinguished careers. I am always amazed at all that our faculty are doing on the local, statewide, national and international levels. Other awards that evening included:

- Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award: Valentina A. French
- Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research/Creativity Award: Mary Howard-Hamilton; Betty Phillips, Tony Rathburn, and Guo-ping Zhang
- Faculty Distinguished Service Award: Darlene Hantzis
- Community-Based Learning and Scholarship Award: Bridget Roberts-Pittman

Faculty earning promotion and tenure were also recognized. Those promoted to full professor were: Kathryn Bauserman, Eli Bermudez, Scott Buchanan, Ann Chirhart, Tim Demchak, Richard Fitch, Rusty Gonser, Stephen Gruenert, Eric Hampton, Tim Hawking, and Keri Yousif.

Those earning tenure were: Portia Adams, Zhiyong Liu, and Greg Youngen. Faculty who were promoted to associate professor and earning tenure are: Stephen Aldrich, Carrie Ball, Alvaro Gurovich, and Farman Moayed.

Congratulations to these faculty members on achieving these noteworthy milestones. I would like to thank Bob Guell for his outstanding leadership this year as chair of the Faculty Senate and also acknowledge the dedicated efforts of the other members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as well as the committee chairs and remaining senators. An incredible amount of work has been or will soon be completed this year. This work is significant and will help transform our university. Ultimately, I believe it will directly contribute to improvements in our students’ success. I know that no one is thrilled about having three Faculty Senate meetings in the month of April, but Bob has been diligent about completing the various charges the Senate was given. This commitment, especially during this busy time, is deeply appreciated.

Earlier this month, the Scott College of Business celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala reception and the presentation of several awards. Tim Leman, chairman and CEO of Gibson Insurance Company was named a Scott College of Business Outstanding Alumni Award recipient. Two-time alumna Jocelyn Owen received the Rising Star Award. Jocelyn, who serves on my National Advisory Board, is the chief operating officer of Digonex Technologies.

Mary Ellen Adams, professor emerita of business, received the Outstanding Educator Award while Richard Becker, associate professor emeritus, and Bruce McLaren, associate dean of the Scott College,
both earned Mover and Shaker awards in recognition of overseeing major facility moves for the college. Dennis Sponsel of RJE Business Interiors received the Award for Innovation, and State Farm Insurance Companies garnered the Industry Partner Award. Congratulations!

Thanks to Dean Brien Smith, Michelle Swick and others who helped plan the event.

On Thursday, the University and the Terre Haute community dedicated a historic marker commemorating the 1963 explosion of the Home Packing Plant which killed 17 men and injured 52 others. The marker is located at the site of the new Gibson Track and Field, just north of the main entrance at 1st and Chestnut streets.

A local group of relatives and friends of Home Packing Plant employees led by former employee Richard Maher started the drive to get a historical marker several years ago through a fund with the Wabash Valley Community Foundation. Marcia Maher, Richard’s widow, was on hand Thursday for the unveiling of the new marker, and his daughter, Sherrie Mansfield, participated in the ceremony which was emceed by Carl Bender. Bender, whose father was one of the 17 victims of the tragic accident, and former Home Packing Company Vice President Bob Scott helped plan the event. Since the University covered the costs for the marker, Bender and others decided to use the funds that had been raised for a one-time, $1,000 scholarship for a relative of a Home Packing Plant employee. Applicants must be a full-time Indiana State University student in good standing. The online application is available at: https://indstate.academicworks.com/opportunities/9052. The deadline to apply is June 15.

On Friday, the University dedicated the Gibson Track and Field, which is part of the Sycamore Athletic Complex. The ceremony took place in the midst of the first home track meet, the three-day Gibson Invitational. Following the ceremony, Max Gibson fired the starter’s pistol for the men’s 5K race which was won easily by Sycamore standout John Mascari.

The new facility features a poured polyurethane track surface by Beynon which is considered one of the premier track surfaces across the country. The nine-lane track has two 110-meter straightaways, four vaulting runway locations, two high jump areas and several throwing sectors. The first phase of this multi-phase project also sports a brick entryway and a video scoreboard. It is our hope to host many meets and championships in this new venue.

Gibson Track and Field is a huge boost to our already outstanding track and field program, and I am extremely appreciative of the Gibson family’s generous support. Following the dedication, Max Gibson was honored with a well-deserved Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his outstanding business success, his widespread philanthropy and all that he has done for Indiana State and the community of Terre Haute.

Also last week, Indiana State and the community celebrated Earth Day with an outdoor picnic, games, entertainment, and exhibitor booths. The day ended with a movie on the Condit House front lawn. Thanks to the Institute for Community Sustainability and everyone who helped organize this fun celebration of spring and our environment.

Other items I would like to share:

- The Strategic Planning Stakeholders Conference conducted earlier this month featured a keynote address by 1981 graduate Brian Burton, chief operating officer and soon to be president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. Brian did a great job detailing the state of the manufacturing sector in Indiana and commended the university for advancing our strategic goals on numerous fronts. Those efforts are improving the reputation of Indiana State among state leaders, he indicated. I appreciate Brian taking the time to share his insights with our
faculty and staff. I would also like to thank **Linda Maule** and **Nancy Rogers** for leading sessions on improving student retention and success and on better utilizing our Career Services area.

- Nominations are being accepted through June 1 for the **Collaboration Award**, a new recognition being given in two categories – one for internal collaborations between two or more units and the second for partnerships between campus units and off-campus non-profit, corporate or governmental entities. The award includes a $10,000 cash award to be used to advance the goals of the collaboration by funding such items as professional development, purchase of equipment or supplies, hiring of consultants, etc. To submit a nomination, go to: [https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=S5V_2tAoMRRpOnkJYmVQ_JFE=0](https://indstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=S5V_2tAoMRRpOnkJYmVQ_JFE=0).

- More than 200 University faculty and staff from throughout the state attended Friday’s “**Building Bridges to College Success: Empowering Students from a Background of Poverty**” conference. Organized by **Josh Powers** and **Linda Maule** with funding provided the Lumina Foundation, the conference featured greetings from former Indiana Lieutenant Governor **Kathy Davis** and a plenary presentation by **Dennis Bland**, president of the Center for Leadership Development and Chair of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. **Donna Beegle**, author of *See Poverty, Beth the Difference*, was the featured workshop presenter; and **Liz Derrough**, coaching solutions manager with InsideTrack was the workshop facilitator. Thanks to all who were involved in developing this enlightening conference.


- Twelve **21st Century Scholars** attended the statewide “Gaining Success Through Leadership Conference” on April 11, one of the largest delegations in the state. Congratulations to **Brandon Hoskins** (student past president), **Christopher Sweeney** (current President), and **Jelisa Brown**, ISU 21st Century Advisor, for one of the very popular sessions, presented on the topic of student engagement. You make us proud.

- **Residential Life and Student NAACP** co-sponsored this year’s Tunnel of Oppression event, where approximately 220 students participated in this annual diversity education program. This year’s program led participants through a one-hour tour of four different rooms that acted out or displayed interactive content on several forms of oppression, including racism, cyberbullying/suicide, domestic violence, and the power of words. Such issues are important in a civil community and we appreciate their efforts to educate and enlighten.

- Accolades continue to accrue for the University’s community engagement involvement. Two of the major awards presented by the **Indiana Campus Compact** at its annual Presidential Commitment Celebration and Awards Ceremony had Indiana State University connections. ISU senior **Trinere Bacon** received the Richard J. Wood Student Community Commitment Award. Trinere will graduate next month with a bachelor of human development and family studies. The AmeriCorps member serves at the 14th and Chestnut Community Center and has also volunteered for campus-wide days of service, in local elementary schools, at a preschool for homeless children, at a wildlife sanctuary and in a Costa Rica orphanage. Congrats to this outstanding student and servant leader. In addition, the **United Way of the Wabash Valley** was recognized with the Outstanding Community Partner Award. Indiana State nominated the local nonprofit for the community-based educational opportunities it provides our students with 32 United Way agencies. Congratulations and thanks go to Troy Fears and the United Way for this tremendous partnership.
The last Performing Arts Series presentation of this year will feature The Fab Four, a Beatles tribute band. The program will take place at 7:30 p.m. on May 1 in Tilson Auditorium. Tickets are available from the Hulman Center Ticket Office.

Good luck with the remainder of the semester!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President